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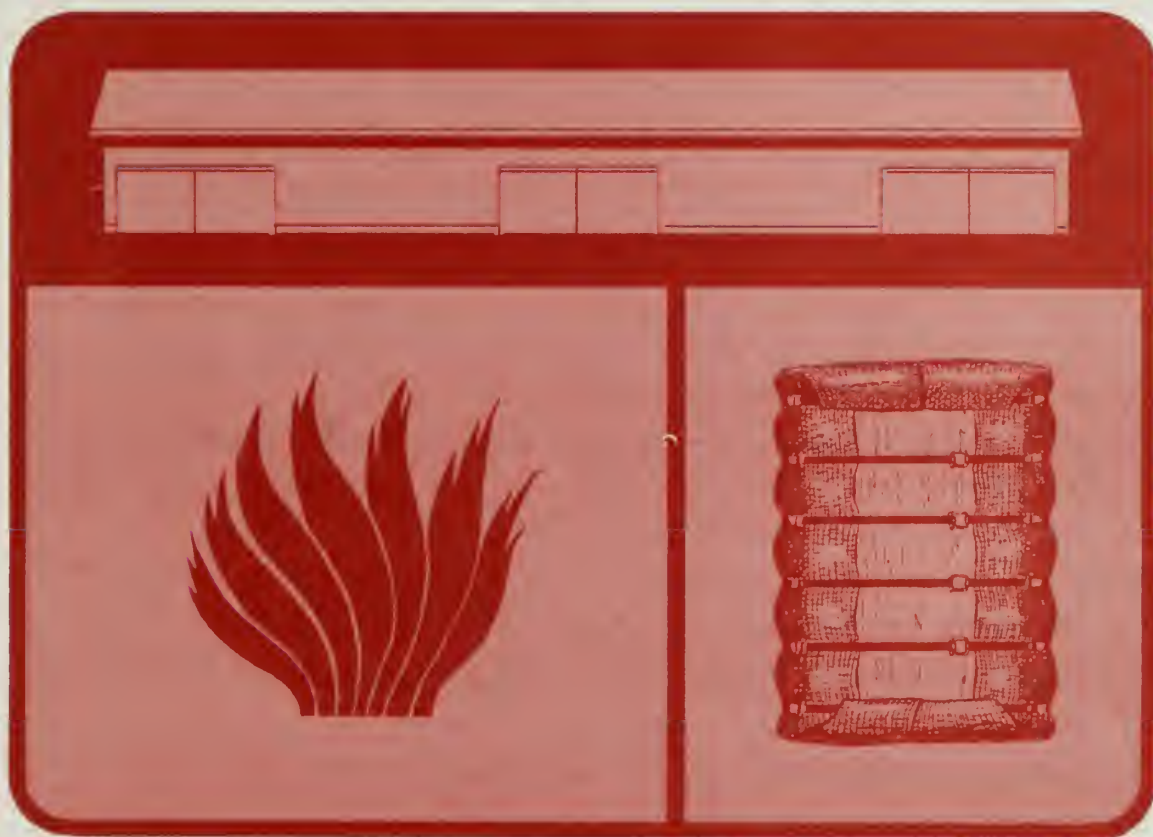
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AUG 24 1967

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COTTON WAREHOUSE FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / CONSUMER AND MARKETING SERVICE

PA-811
July 1967



IF YOU OPERATE A COTTON WAREHOUSE—FIRE CAN RUIN YOU—MAKE FIRE PREVENTION A HABIT!

Cotton is extremely flammable. Stored cotton has a high flash potential. Thus, fire is always a threat around a cotton warehouse. Nevertheless, the number and size of fires can be reduced by each warehouseman maintaining an effective and aggressive fire prevention program. Only you can establish such a program for your warehouse.

Warehouse examiners from the United States Department of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service examine about 1,200 warehouses licensed under the United States Warehouse Act or storing cotton for Commodity Credit Corporation under a CCC storage agreement.

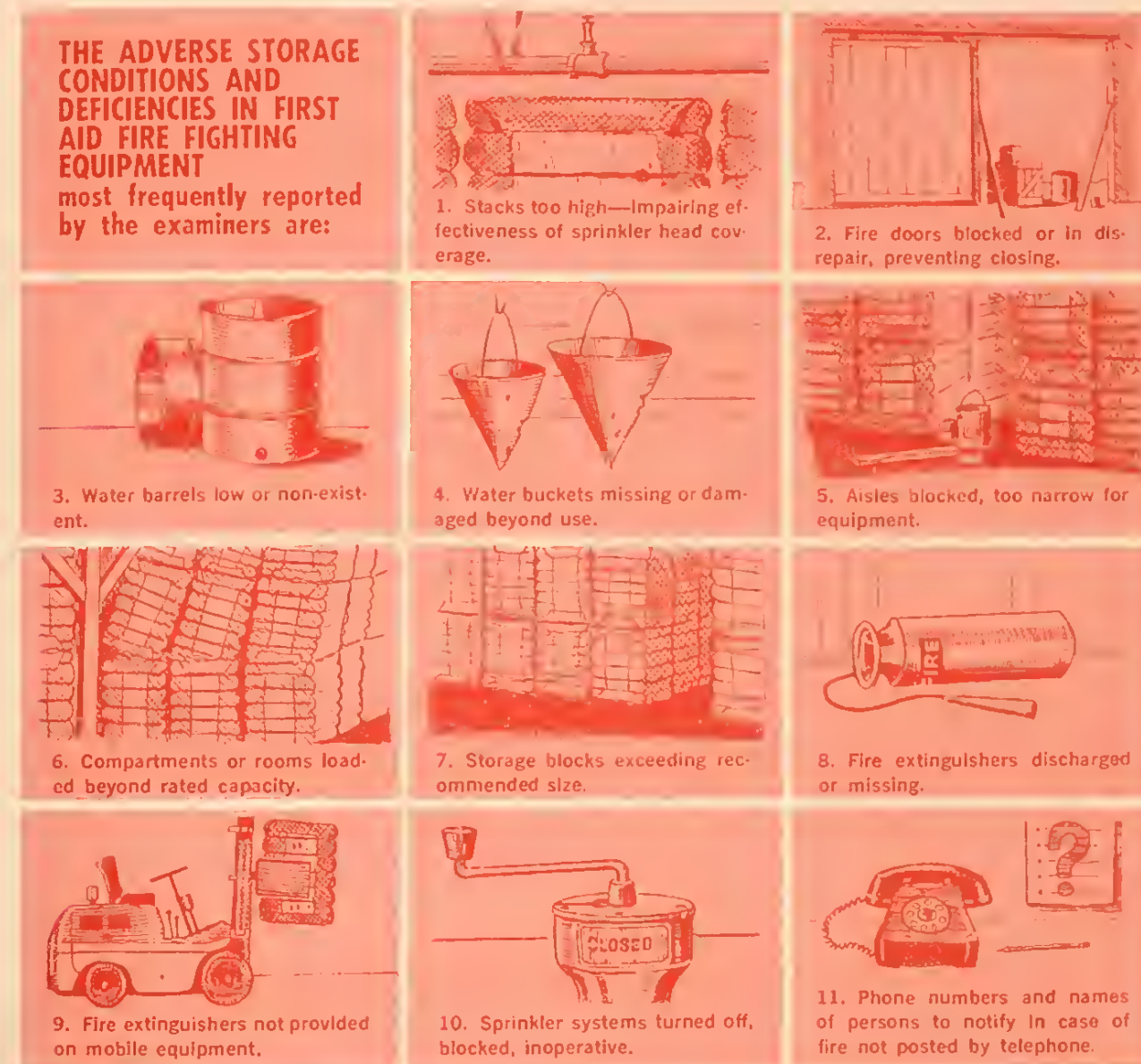
These examiners will point out fire hazards and other adverse conditions they find when they visit your warehouse, but you, the warehouseman, are responsible for constant fire prevention. Most fires start small and can be brought under control if they are fought properly within the first few minutes. The most common *POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARDS* examiners find are:

1. Rubbish and trash accumulation outside and inside the warehouse.
2. Grass and weeds grown up around building.
3. Broken windows and loose or missing boards on side of buildings permitting easy entrance for prowlers.
4. Outside doors that fail to close tightly and cannot be locked at night.
5. Loose cotton on floors in working and storage area.
6. Loose cotton piled in corner of warehouse—no receptacle is provided.
7. Employees smoking in warehouse—cigarette butts on floor in storage area.
8. Refueling motor equipment in warehouse storage area.
9. Equipment operating without approved spark retardant mufflers.
10. Old electrical systems with frayed and exposed wires.
11. Jury-rigged and overloaded electrical systems.
12. Bales with broken bands allowing cotton to fluff out.



BE CONSTANTLY ON THE ALERT. Correct any hazards found . . . this is half the job. The other half is to see that they stay corrected.

THE ADVERSE STORAGE CONDITIONS AND DEFICIENCIES IN FIRST AID FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT most frequently reported by the examiners are:



Protect your operation with a check system to keep you constantly aware of fire hazards. Use the attached check list to inspect your facilities once a week.

In case of emergency, people do what comes naturally unless they have been trained to do otherwise. In case of fire, "what comes naturally" is usually wrong. Organize and train your employees to react promptly and properly when fire is discovered.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN FIRE IS DISCOVERED? CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT—OF COURSE, BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH—ALSO

Turn in plant alarm, call manager.

Shut off machinery and power, move motor vehicles and mobile equipment away from plant.

Extinguish or contain blaze with first aid fire equipment if possible but do not delay calling fire department and do not let yourself be cut off from exits—this can happen in a very short time in a non-sprinklered risk area or if a sprinkler system fails to function.

Start auxiliary fire pumps, etc., if available, to supplement water to sprinkler system. Do not allow anyone to ROB water from the sprinkler through injudicious use of fire hoses.

Meet and direct fire department to point of fire.

Close fire doors and eliminate drafts. Do not break holes into building.

Do not direct hose streams directly on burning bales—use fog nozzles after fire is quenched by sprinklers.

Call underwriter.

Call New Orleans Commodity Office and your licensing authority.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN A FIRE IS UNDER CONTROL?—YOUR WORK HAS JUST BEGUN:

Carefully move all fire-damaged bales from the warehouse to a safe area.

Keep bales at least three feet apart. Chances are the fire is NOT OUT. Moving the bale into the air may cause it to flash.

Have salvage crew standing ready with "wet" water and first aid fire fighting equipment when bales are removed from the stacks and while they are in the isolation area. DO NOT remove bands from bales.

Carefully inspect and clean up fire area.

Maintain constant and careful 24-hour watch over warehouse, cotton in the warehouse, and fire bales removed from the warehouse for at least 5 days.

If sprinkler system is involved, immediately replace fused heads and restore water supply.

A warehouseman with an aggressive fire prevention program is a better risk for the depositor, the buyer, and the insurance company for the storage of cotton. His investment to achieve and maintain this status is heavier on determination and diligence rather than dollars.

ISN'T IT RATHER EASY TO DECIDE THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT A COTTON WAREHOUSE?

POST BY TELEPHONE

PHONE NUMBERS FOR EMERGENCY CALLS

MANAGER: _____

FIRE DEPARTMENT _____

OWNER: _____

POLICE DEPARTMENT _____

INSURANCE AGENT: _____

DOCTOR: _____

UNDERWRITERS SALVAGE CO: _____

HOSPITAL: _____

IN CASE OF FIRE, NOTIFY:

1. WAREHOUSES APPROVED UNDER CCC STORAGE AGREEMENTS INCLUDING THOSE ALSO LICENSED UNDER THE U.S. WAREHOUSE ACT, NOTIFY:

NAME: Mr. E. L. Riddle, Chief - Storage Contract Staff

LOCATION: ASCS Commodity Office, 120 Marias St., New Orleans, La. 70112

TELEPHONE NO: 504-527-7777

(The New Orleans ASCS Commodity Office will notify C&MS in case of fire in a warehouse also licensed under the U.S. Warehouse Act. No separate notification to C&MS is required.)

2. WAREHOUSES LICENSED UNDER THE U.S. WAREHOUSE ACT ONLY, NOTIFY:

NAME: _____

LOCATION: _____

TELEPHONE NO: _____

3. WAREHOUSES LICENSED UNDER STATE AUTHORITY, NOTIFY:

NAME: _____

LOCATION: _____

TELEPHONE NO: _____

WAREHOUSE NAME

FIRE PREVENTION AND STORAGE MANAGEMENT CHECK LIST

(Make separate report for each fire risk.)

WAREHOUSE NO.

COMPARTMENT NO.

	YES	NO		YES	NO
FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT			STORAGE MANAGEMENT		
<u>1. First aid extinguishers</u>			<u>1. Piling and stacking</u>		
a. Clean and in workable condition			a. Within prescribed height		
b. Checked or refilled and tagged			b. Sprinkler heads unimpaired (36" clearance)...		
c. Protected against freezing			c. All warehouse tags exposed		
d. Properly hung and marked			d. Blocks do not exceed 12,000 cu. ft. (300 B/C flat or 600 B/C compressed)...		
e. Water casks filled			e. Blocks neat and secure		
f. Pails, undamaged and properly placed					
<u>2. Standpipe and hose</u>			<u>2. Aisles</u>		
a. Properly marked			a. Completely free and clear		
b. Hose hung properly			b. Meet minimum width requirements		
<u>3. Sprinkler Protection</u>			c. Allow free movement of equipment		
a. Valves open			<u>3. Stored Cotton</u>		
b. Air pressure at proper level			a. Damaged bales?		
c. Dry system lines free of water			b. Broken bands?		
d. Wet system protected from freezing			c. Wetted?		
e. Sprinkler heads free of paint, insect nests, etc.			MAINTENANCE		
<u>4. Fire Prevention Signs</u>			<u>1. Building</u>		
a. "No Smoking" signs posted			a. Broken windows		
b. Smoking rule strictly enforced			b. Loose side boards permitting entry		
c. "In case of fire" signs posted			c. Broken floor boards		
d. Telephone available to workmen			d. Outside doors locked at night		
e. Whom to notify, and phone numbers posted by phones			e. Signs of roof leaking		
<u>5. Fire Doors</u>			<u>2. Handling Equipment</u>		
a. In good workable condition			a. Equipped with fire extinguishers		
b. Free from obstructions			b. Spark retardant mufflers		
<u>6. Local Fire alarm</u>			c. Properly oiled and tuned		
a. In good working order			d. Use of approved area for refueling and servicing		
b. Manual stations plainly marked			HOUSEKEEPING		
ELECTRICAL AND LIGHTING SYSTEM			<u>1. Inside Building</u>		
<u>1. Unused wiring</u>			a. Floor clear of loose cotton and debris		
a. Removed/disconnected			b. Container furnished for loose cotton ..		
b. Exposed ends taped					
<u>2. Fuse box in order</u>			<u>2. Outside Building</u>		
a. Personnel familiar with switch and control boxes			a. Area surrounding free of litter		
COMPRESS EQUIPMENT			b. Grass and weeds cut around building ...		
<u>1. Heating plant or boiler</u>					
a. In good working order			REMARKS		
b. Properly protected from combustibles					
c. Free from rubbish in area					
<u>2. Compress and dinky press</u>					
a. In good working order			CHECKED BY		
b. Safety guards in place					
c. Fire extinguishers at compress in place and marked					

